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## NOTEWORTHY COLLECTIONS

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

*SALIX TWEEDI* (Bebb) C. R. Ball (SALICACEAE).—Bolean Lake, northeast of Falkland. 50°32'N, 119°30'W. 1440 m, in a *Salix*, *Carex* swamp at s. end of lake in front of resort, associated with *S. barclayi*, 25 Jul 1986, T. C. Brayshaw 86-23, -24, -26, -27, -28, -29, -30 (CAN, V).

*Previous knowledge.* This species was first collected in Canada at this locality in 1941 by C. L. Hitchcock and J. S. Martin. Their collection number 7524 was distributed as *S. barclayi* Anderss. In 1962, A. Cronquist recognized that a duplicate at NY was actually *S. tweedyi*. This specimen evidently was the basis for the inclusion of BC in the distribution of the species in Hitchcock et al. (*Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest* 2:69, 1964). Specimens of 7524 in RM and WTU also are *S. tweedyi*, but the specimen in A was correctly named *S. barclayi*.

*Significance.* These collections confirm the occurrence of *S. tweedyi* in Canada at a locality about 200 km n. of its nearest locality in Washington (Okanogan Co., Tiffany Mt.). This species is rare in BC.—GEORGE W. ARGUS, National Herbarium, Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, ON K1A 0M8 and T. C. BRAYSHAW, British Columbia Provincial Museum, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4, Canada.

### NEW MEXICO

*SALIX GEYERIANA* Anderss. (SALICACEAE).—Catron Co., Mogollon Mountains, Gilita Cr. at confluence of Indian Cr., ca. 31 km e. of Mogollon, 33°24'N, 108°34'W, 8000

ft, dominant in *Salix* thicket along creek, 27 Jun 1986, *G. W. and J. N. Argus 12258, 12263* (CAN). Luna, on US 180, 3.4 km w. of town at crossing of San Francisco River, 33°50'N, 109°01'W, 7500 ft, *Populus angustifolia* thicket on creek margin, 2 Jul 1986, *G. W. and J. N. Argus 12394* (CAN). Luna, on US 180, 2 km w. of town, 33°50'N, 108°59'W, 7100 ft, *Salix irrorata* dominated thicket in wet meadow, 2 Jul 1986, *G. W. and J. N. Argus 12398* (CAN).

*Previous knowledge.* Occurs in the Rocky Mountains from southern British Columbia to Colorado and in California with disjunct localities in western Nebraska and the White Mountains of Arizona.

*Significance.* New to the flora of New Mexico. This occurrence in the Mogollon Mts. parallels the disjunction in the White Mts. of Arizona.—GEORGE W. ARGUS, National Herbarium, Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, ON K1A 0M8, Canada.

FESTUCA MINUTIFLORA Rydb. (POACEAE).—Rio Arriba Co., Pecos Wilderness Area, North Truchas Peak, w. slope of mountain, 35°59'N, 105°37'W, 12,000 ft, alpine vegetation on talus slope, 4 Jul 1986, *G. W. and J. N. Argus 12404* (CAN) (identified by Susan Aiken).

*Previous knowledge.* Scattered throughout the w. states (AZ, CA, CO, OR, UT, WY) at elevations between 3000–4000 m. It is relatively common in Colorado, but poorly known elsewhere (Frederiksen, Bot. Notiser 132:315–318, 1979).

*Significance.* New to the flora of New Mexico.—GEORGE W. ARGUS and SUSAN G. AIKEN, National Herbarium, Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, ON K1A 0M8, Canada.

## REVIEWS

*Xántus, The Letters of John Xántus to Spencer Fullerton Baird from San Francisco and Cabo San Lucas, 1854–1861.* Introduction, Notes and Illustrations by ANN H. ZWINGER. 442 pp. Dawson's Book Shop, Los Angeles. 1986. \$69.00.

Any biologist concerned with natural history in Baja California, Mexico, is familiar with the specific epithets *xanti* or *xantusii*. John Xántus de Vesey sailed from San Francisco in March 1859 during our spring and arrived to Cabo San Lucas in early April, at the height of the dry season there. It is small wonder that in his first letter he said, "There is not a drop of water for a distance of 28 miles (San Jose) only Mr. Ritchie has a well, of very indifferent brackish water, and there is not a tree for many miles, if we except the Cactuses, of which there is infinite variety. . . ." Xántus installed a tidal gauge, which was the reason for the U.S. Coastal Survey having sent him to the tip of Baja California, and began to collect natural history specimens for the Smithsonian Institution. This was a field of endeavor in which he excelled and one that he much preferred to that of recording tidal data.

These letters to Mr. Baird, the newly appointed Assistant Secretary to Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, show the difficulties under which Xántus carried on his work. He had to take all scientific equipment with him; mail sometimes took six months or more to reach him. Shipment of his scientific specimens depended upon unscheduled arrival of whalers or ships that were bound for San Francisco or eastern seaboard ports. His letters contain meticulous reports on the contents of each shipment